



School of Architecture
& Urban Planning
Department of Architecture

30 July, 2013

Kate M. Nelson
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Chief Sustainability Officer
P.O. Box 413, Milwaukee, WI 53201

Dear Ms. Nelson:

Please consider this a letter of affirmation of sustainability, regarding Meltwater: The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Carbon Neutral House Project. This project was one of twenty entries into the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon Competition in 2009, and has been installed on the campus at UW-M as a student meeting space accessible to all student organizations on campus. In addition, it is a valuable teaching tool for faculty across campus teaching sustainability topics, as well as being open for tours for prospective students and other community groups.

The U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon Competition is a biennial event for university students to design and build a net-zero energy house for display and operation on the National Mall in Washington, DC. It is an international competition open to any university program in architecture, engineering and construction management. There are over 140 schools of architecture in the U.S., and many more in engineering in the U.S. and abroad. Of those, UW-M was one of only twenty proposals selected for participation in 2009.

The competition has been held every two years since 2001, and will end in 2015, making the UW-M project one of only 140 possible projects around the world. Not only is the house a strong candidate for the Innovation Credit in the AASHE STARS submission because of its design for net-zero energy, it is a model of sustainability in its use of local materials and products and its net-zero carbon approach to construction.

The Solar Decathlon project will continue to be a fixture on campus as a physical example of what a sustainable home may be, but also as a valuable teaching and learning tool for faculty and students across campus.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregory D. Thomson".

Gregory D. Thomson, LEED AP
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